inter-tie points, quantum of power supply at each point, nature of power supply (i.e. base load, peak load or off-peak power), commercial arrangement based on international commercial practices for sale/purchase of power between countries and other related technical issues.

The project envisages export of surplus power from Eastern region of India to Western Bangladesh. The project also envisages export of surplus power from Eastern Bangladesh to the North Eastern region of India. Initially, this would be of benefit to States belonging to the Eastern and North Eastern regions of India.

Power Sourcing from Neighbouring Countries

1356. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of shortage of power faced by India during the year 1997-98;

(b) whether it is proposed to make up part of this shortage by sourcing it from the neighbouring countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The All India energy shortage and peak deficit during the period April-June, 1997 was 12.1% and 17.9% respectively.

(b) and (c) The status of exchange of power with neighbouring countries is as follows:—

(1) *Bhutan*

India is importing power from Chukha Hydro Electric Project in Bhutan for the past few years. The quantum of power imported is 1388 million units per annum. Government of Bhutan also buys power from West Bengal and Assam State Electricity Boards.

(2) *Nepal*

The power exchange between India and Nepal commenced in October, 1971 following Secretary level discussions between the two countries. The quantum of exchange of power initially was upto 5 MW which at present has been raised to 50 MW. The exchange of power takes place at 17 places along the Indo-Nepal border through the existing transmission network.

(3) *Pakistan*

A proposal for import of surplus power from Pakistan is at a preliminary stage. A feasibility study will have to be commissioned after mutual consultations to establish the technical, financial and economic viability for the transmission link between Pakistan and India based on the quantum of power to be transmitted.

(4) *Bangladesh*

A tripartite meeting between Government of India, Government of Bangladesh and Asian Development Bank (ADB) was held at Manila in May, 1997 to discuss the technical, financial and commercial issues including identification of potential links for transfer of power between Bangladesh and India. The Asian Development Bank, under its Regional Technical Assistance Programme has agreed to finance a feasibility study for electricity exchange between India and Banlgadesh. The feasibility study would identify the inter-tie points, quantum of power supply at each point, nature of power supply (i.e. base load, peak load or off-peak power), commercial arrangements based on international commercial practices for sale/purchase of power between countries and other related technical issues.

The project envisages export of surplus power from Eastern region of India to Western Bangladesh. The project also envisages export of surplus power from Eastern Bangladesh to the North Eastern region of India. Initially, this would be of

benefit to States belonging to the Eastern and North Eastern regions of India.

Construction of Rammam Hydel Project

1357. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the works for construction of Rammam Hydel Project Stage I, III and IV have been awarded to some Private Companies under joint ventures;

(b) the details of agreement reached between State Government and the executing companies; and

(c) by when the projects are likely to come under commercial operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cooperative Societies for production and distribution of Power

1358. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation is providing any cooperation/assistance in the setting up of rural power cooperative societies for the production and distribution of power in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Assam;

(b) if so, the details of such societies being assisted by the Corporation at present;

(c) the details of financial and other assistance provided by the above States to such societies during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(d) whether some new proposals for setting up of rural power cooperative societies in these States have been received; and

(e) if so, the formalities needed for setting up these societies for obtaining assistance from the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Rural Electrification Corporation is providing financial assistance to rural electric cooperatives for distribution of power.

(i) In Madhya Pradesh, Rural Electrification Corporation has financed 17 such Rural Electric Cooperatives. Of these 16 societies (with the exception of Sidhi RE Cooperative Society) have been put under the charge of S.E. (O&M) of District of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board by a State Government Order after superseding the existing Boards of cooperative societies.

(ii) In Rajasthan, 3 RE Cooperatives have been financed by REC which have since been liquidated by the State Government.

(iii) No such assistance has been given to the Assam State for RE Cooperatives as no projects has been formulated by the Assam State Electricity Board.

(b) Details of financial assistance provided by REC to RE Cooperatives in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are given in the Statement I & II respectively. (*see* below)

(c) No financial assistance has been disbursed by REC during 1995-96 and 1996-97 to RE Cooperatives in these three States for reason stated in (a) above.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of (d) above, does not arise.